HOME Safety REVIEW

Elizabeth Reed, Editor

JUNE, 1953
VOL. 10, NO. 6

HAPPY GO LUCKY!

MY, BUT WE'VE had a day! My grandson, Johnny, spent the day with us. Must say I'd forgotten how active those one-year-olds are. We're worn out, but Johnny was still going strong when his Dad took him home.

When he came patting into the house on his tip toes with that bright smile of his, we plain melted. Nothing was too good for him.

He hadn't been in the house a minute, seemed like, when he'd disappeared. I found him squatting on top of the window seat in the upstairs hall making happy sounds at the robins in the tree outside. Good thing the window wasn't open. When I called him away from there he thought I was playing games with him and made a bee line for the stairs loking back at me and chortling as he ran. I got him in the nick of time and took him downstairs.

Soon he was absorbed in his toys. Sally, his grandmother, was fixing lunch and I was puttering around when I heard a howl of glee. He flew to me proud as a peacock and giving off a flow of gibberish about his accomplishment. He had pulled a wheel off his auto. To show what his new found toy could do he threw it across the room, retrieved it, and popped it into his mouth. So I took the wheel and the auto away from him and went over the rest of his toys to see if there was anything else he could work loose.

Hearing Sally in the kitchen, he trotted out there and the next thing I heard was a loud, "Johnny!" from Sally. He'd gotten into the cabinet under the sink and was gaily spreading soap flakes over the floor. The ammonia bottle was out and he started pounding a can of drain cleaner on the floor before we could get across the room. I had visions of the cover flying off but it didn't.

While we were putting those things away and cleaning up the mess, he headed for the stove and Sally pulled him back just as he was reaching for a pan of boiling potatoes. Speaking of jumping from the frying pan into the fire!

Things went along on a fairly even keel then until late afternoon when, thinking we turned our attention to other things. All of a sudden he yelled and burst into the living room holding a bleeding finger out. He'd been investigating the waste basket. Wasn't much of a cut, fortunately, but now I know what his mother means when she says, "When he's quiet, I find out what's going on, because that's when he's headed for trouble."

Feel as though I've lived a whole day with my heart in my mouth, but I wouldn't have forgone it for the world. We'll just put a few things where he can't get them and have our wits about us the next time he comes. He's all right — that one — lively, inquisitive, happy, all we could ask for.

—Safety Sam

Write for Your Merit Award Application Now!

(Left) Cabinet for household cleaning equipment with high shelf for soaps, solvents, etc., and racks and hooks on door for small equipment. One or two shelves may be used, but top shelf should be within reach of a woman of average height. (Right) Unit for table linens. Drawers and pull-out shelves facilitate storage. Pull out shelves may be taken to laundry room and linens placed on them when ironed.

A Place for Everything

By Helen E. McCullough

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A STUDY OF storage requirements for various kinds of household articles was conducted by the University of Illinois department of home economics. The study provides basic facts on measurement, arrangement, and use of storage space as an aid to architects, builders, and others interested in designing and building houses. The material differs from usual presentations on storage space in that 1) recommended dimensions for storage units are based on measurements of items stored, and 2) dimensions are for the most part based on the 4-inch module in order to achieve construction savings.

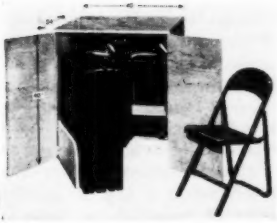
With the exception of kitchen supplies and, to a lesser degree, clothing, no authenticated list was available of the types and quantities of articles which families in general are likely to store; hence, it was necessary to compile a representative list. The list of articles was classified according to types, each of which might be stored in large enough quantity to justify a separate or complete storage unit.

Emphasis is placed on maximum accessibility of all items stored; efficient use of space for storage; economy in construction of storage units; and flexibility in the use of storage units. While all these factors are important, particular stress is laid on flexibility. For efficiency and economy, storage units should be designed to allow for changing usage and for varying occupancies of different age, interest and income groups. It should be possible for individual families to adjust storage space to meet their own needs.

The storage units shown are of dimensions and designs that make the most economical use of space and yet permit articles stored to be "easy to see, easy to reach, and easy to grasp."

The units are as shallow as practical so that articles can be stored without necessi-

This is an abstract from Small Homes Council Circular CS.1, "Household Storage Units," reprinted by special permission of the University of Illinois Small Homes Council. Copies of this circular may be obtained for 10 cents from Small Homes Council, Mumford House, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.



(Above) Card tables are stored on a hinged rack, fitted with dividers, in front of the chairs. Tables and chairs vary in size.

(Right) Most toys for indoor play can be stored on shelves 12 inches deep. This unit is designed with tip-out bins which are easy to open and shut; moreover, they are permanently attached to the unit.

tating the moving of one article to reach another. Unnecessary margins in front of and above articles are eliminated in order to keep unused space to a minimum. For flexibility, adjustable shelves are recommended for the units.

The article having the greatest depth when stored in its assigned unit determines the depth of the unit. Only three depths are presented: 12-inch, 16-inch, and 24-inch. Practically all items considered in this study can be stored efficiently in units of these depths.

Width of the storage units is variable to allow for the many types and variations in number of articles among families. Widths are determined in some instances by the width of the largest article to be stored in a particular unit; in others, by the number of articles to be stored.

The over-all heights of the units may be altered as desired. They may be adapted to door or window levels, or they can be made free-standing or of ceiling heights. Seven feet is the maximum height recommended for storage of articles in frequent use. This measurement permits a shelf to be placed 72 inches above the floor, thus being within the reach of a woman of average height.

Separate units were designed for the following purposes: dinnerware, books, magazines, toys, business papers, desk supplies, radio and record-player, musical instruments, bathroom supplies, work and play clothes, sports equipment, cleaning equipment and supplies, clothing, luggage, bedding, card tables and folding chairs, table linens, folding bed and guest closet, sewing equipment, and infants' equipment.

This bedroom unit for clothing can also be used, in whole or part, as a coat closet in the living room area. Note shelving for shoes, sweaters, etc. To accommodate women's evening clothes and floor length robes, rod should be set 72 inches high. For adult's clothing, generally, a rod 64 inches high is sufficient.

HOME INJURY SURVEY

By F. M. Hemphill, Ph.D.

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THE DEPARTMENT of public health statistics, school of public health, University of Michigan, recently completed a study of home accidents. The study was made to determine the frequency and to investigate the underlying factors of home injuries. The feature which distinguishes this from earlier studies was the application of modern survey techniques.

The survey on which the study was based was made in Washtenaw County, Michigan, during 1951. Data were collected from 2,456 homes for the primary purpose of describing the rate of home injuries among the county's population and to provide a description of these injuries classified by sex and age of injured persons, type of injury, location of person at time of injury, part of body injured, and other data pertinent to development of prevention procedures.

Findings indicate that each person had approximately six home injuries per year, most of them minor or superficial in nature. The ratio of minor to major injuries approximated 100:1.

Following are some of the conclusions derived from the study. Major and minor injuries are probably associated. Those who have minor injuries tend to be those who have major injuries. Therefore, prevention programs which reduce minor injuries may reduce major injuries.

Children under 15 years of age suffered major injuries at relatively high rates, especially males. In general—all ages—the female rates were higher than the male rates. Rarely did individuals over 10 years of age report more than one major injury per year. The rate of injured males was highest in the 5-9 year age group, while the highest similar female rate was for the 0-4 group.

Injuries in the kitchen accounted for about 18 per cent of all minor injuries incurred by males, 42 per cent of all such injuries suffered by females, and 35 per cent of the total number of minor injuries for both sexes. The kitchen and yard together accounted for 55 per cent of all minor injuries and 45 per cent of all major injuries. Females were injured most frequently in the kitchen, males in the yard.

Cuts, Burns, Bruises

Approximately 86 per cent of minor injuries and 67 per cent of major injuries were either cuts, burns, or bruises. Cuts and piercing wounds were 41 per cent of both major and minor injuries. In contrast, burns were only 9 per cent of major injuries, but 25 per cent of minor injuries; while sprains

Table 1

Characteristic of Object	Percentage of Minor Injuries Within 1 Week			Percentage of Major Injuries Within 1 Year		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Sharp edged	25.7	26.8	26.4	24.8	22.1	23.3
2. Hard or Rough Surfaced	29.7	16.8	21.1	18.6	27.0	23.5
3. Hot or Heat Radiating	16.3	28.3	24.3	10.6	8.4	9.3
4. Pointed	11.0	9.8	10.2	16.8	8.4	11.9
5. Bulky (size and weight)	5.0	5.9	5.6	14.9	16.8	16.0
6. Protruding	3.7	4.4	4.1	3.7	8.0	6.2
7. Shock Producing	1.3	3.0	2.5	—	0.9	0.5
8. Causing Internal Injury (chemical)	0.7	0.3	0.4	3.1	2.2	2.6
9. Causing Internal Injury (mechanical)	0.3	—	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.0
10. Undetermined	6.3	4.7	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.7
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Number of Injuries	300	594	894	161	226	387

or strains were 12 per cent of major injuries, but only 4 per cent of minor injuries.

About 50 per cent of all the injuries were to some part of the arm or hand; 18 per cent were injuries to the lower extremities. Most of the injuries to the arm or hand were incurred by children while playing and women while preparing meals.

About 40 per cent of the injuries were the result of accidents caused either by persons handling the objects which inflicted the injuries or by some activity of another person or animal directed toward the person injured.

Condition Causing Injury

About 49 per cent were in the category of persons "sliding, falling, slipping, running, walking, etc.," into objects; and 24 per cent were caused by objects in motion contacting the person injured, i.e., "objects in state of falling, flying, being thrown, etc."

Approximately 57 per cent of all injuries for which hour of the day was determined occurred between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

A sharp distinction was made in this study between those objects causing the accidents and those inflicting the injuries. This distinction may be illustrated as follows: A man falls off a ladder, spraining his ankle upon contact with the ground. The ground, then, and not the ladder, is listed as inflicting the injury. Table 1 shows characteristics of objects inflicting injuries.

Objects Inflicting Injuries

The first four types of objects in the table inflicted 82 per cent of all minor injuries and 68 per cent of all major injuries.

Also noteworthy is the fact that object types 5, 8 and 9, that is bulky objects and those inflicting internal injuries, inflicted a greater percentage of major than of minor injuries. While these objects inflicted relatively few injuries, they are nevertheless dangerous.

Table 2 shows certain specific objects which inflicted a comparatively large number of injuries under the same categories as the table above.

The classification "pressure" in Table 2 is associated with strains and sprains where no specific object could be said to have inflicted the injury.

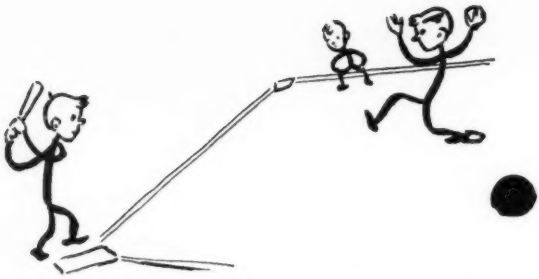
Since approximately 60 per cent of all injuries reported were associated with a limited number of categories of common and usual household activities, home safety programs can be directed toward developing safe surroundings and safe practices while persons are engaged in the following activities: (1) children playing, (2) cooking and food preparation, (3) cleaning up after kitchen operations, (4) laundry operations, (5) home repair operations.

Table 2

	Name of object	Number of Minor Injuries	Number of Major Injuries
1.	Sharp edged		
	knife	70	9
	glass	27	29
	razor	18	2
	tin can	11	6
2.	Hard or rough surfaced		
	stairs	27	16
	floor	24	15
	gravel	14	3
	sidewalk	13	3
	rock	12	8
	ground	9	7
3.	Hot or heat radiating		
	electric iron	47	1
	grease	25	4
	kettle	22	2
	oven	20	1
	steam	16	0
	toaster	11	0
	stove	8	3
4.	Pointed		
	claw	18	3
	teeth	11	12
	splinter	11	8
	nail	7	11
5.	Miscellaneous		
	pressure	24	19
	door	20	8
	bushes	15	2
	toy	12	7
	automobile	11	2
	chair	10	6

Readers wishing more detailed information on this study may obtain it by writing Dr. F. M. Hemphill, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, requesting the booklet, *Home Injuries*. Permission to reproduce any portion of the above article should be requested of Dr. Hemphill in person.

PLAY SAFE



HERE'S A SET of questions for you and your children. Read them over. Can you answer "yes" to all of them? If not, talk over the points you're weak on with your youngsters and work out a practical plan for developing good safe practices.

For Parents

1. Do you wait to give your child a bicycle, skates, dart games, etc., until they can accept the responsibility of using them carefully and safely?

2. Do you teach your child how to bicycle, skate, sled, etc., safely before you allow them to go off alone?

3. Do you help your children to keep their toys out of traffic ways?

4. Do you keep matches out of reach of young children? Teach older ones to use them properly and respect their dangers?

5. Do you teach your children to use knives, other sharp tools safely? Never to run with scissors, pencil, or other pointed object?

6. Have you put all poisons out of reach of young children? Taught the older ones the dangers of playing with family medicines, cleansers, etc.?

7. Are flammable liquids safely stored?

8. Are firearms locked away unloaded—with all ammunition?

9. Do you observe safe practices yourself to set an example?

10. Is there an adult life guard where your children swim?

For Children

1. Are the handlebars on your bike tight? Are these tight, too: grips? seat? pedals?

2. Do the brakes take hold quickly?

3. Do you know your community's laws about bike riding?

4. Do you put bikes, scooters, skates, and so forth, away where no one can trip over them when you're not using them?

5. Do you watch out for others when running, skating, or playing to avoid knocking them down?

6. When playing ball and the ball rolls into the street, do you make sure no car is coming before getting it?

7. Do you keep a safe distance from the batter when playing baseball? Watch where you drop the bat when you've batted?

8. When you throw a ball to someone, are you sure he knows you're throwing it to him?

9. Many things like sticks, stones, and sand are not suitable for throwing. Do you refrain from throwing such things?

10. When using an air rifle, dart game, or bow and arrow, do you aim only at the target?

CHILD SAFETY

A Suggested Program for September

THE YOUNGSTERS WILL be going back to school in September and renewing their safety education there. Child safety is the subject of the September Operation Safety traffic program. Thus this is a good month for an all-out program on home, school, and traffic safety for children.

Several youth organizations have their own safety programs which can be stimulated by the encouragement of parents. If your local school system does not have a safety program, you can plan to help initiate one and if it does, find out what they are doing and work with them.

Contests

In some communities contests conducted in the schools have proven successful and have been a good source for newspaper and radio publicity. Contests can be developed for the best posters, essays, or speeches on home safety or safety at play. Older children interested in photography can develop a contest for the best photos illustrating safe practices.

A program for a community-wide meeting can be worked up by inviting a teacher who is responsible for a school safety program, an adult leader of a youth organization, and a doctor to discuss how parents can cooperate at home with the work of these various groups. If the meeting is held at a time convenient for children to take part, a panel of youngsters or a skit given by children makes a very lively contribution.

In planning your publicity for the month, do not neglect to contribute material to the editors of school papers, youth organization bulletins, and PTA bulletins. Children make appealing subjects for pictures and a series can be worked up showing various safe practices.

Perhaps a member of the PTA can give a radio talk on child safety. Another approach for radio publicity would be to ask a local radio personality to conduct a quiz program with children as participants. In one community a course on home safety was conducted through PTA meetings with the instructor lecturing on the radio and the various PTA groups meeting in their respective schools at the same time.

Other projects which might be tried are a workshop for adults or youngsters, safety assemblies in schools, home hazard inspection conducted through the schools. For this latter project, perhaps you can work out a plan whereby a small Hazard Eliminator button can be awarded to each child reporting the elimination of a specific number of home hazards.

Local Safety Council

If there is a local safety council in your community, contact them before you get too deep in your plans. They can be of great help to you and would want to coordinate their plans with yours.

Write to the National Safety Council for information about the *Child Safety Program Package* and the *Baby Sitters Safety Packet.* These two kits present suggestions for organizing and carrying out community-wide programs. For basic technical information on safe practices the Council has a series of safety education data sheets and safety lesson units designed for use in the schools.

FUSE COUPLING

The above plug has a built-in replaceable fuse. The manufacturer states that it reduces fire hazards caused by damaged electrical cords because its fuse instantly breaks the circuit when a "short" occurs in connected lamp and extension cords.

Transactions

Current Topics in Home Safety, volume 13, *Transactions,* has been published by the National Safety Council. This volume contains the speeches given at the home safety sessions of the 40th National Safety Congress last October. Some of the subjects in this volume are a preliminary report of a pilot study on childhood accidents conducted at Babies Hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City, a home for the handicapped, the nurse's part in home accident prevention, a radio dramatization, studies of sudden death in infants often attributed to mechanical suffocation, and the Los Angeles health department program. Single copies, 35 cents each.

Sorry!--Correction

We like to know that our readers are alert and interested enough to let us know when we're in error. It has been brought to our attention that the article on *tin* foil in the April issue should have read *aluminum* foil. Our apologies!

New Conference Members

The Home Safety Conference announces the addition of the following new members: Miss Lura Jim Alkire, manager, Consumers Institute, General Electric Co.; Miss Mary Handlin, chairman, home safety committee, American Home Economics Association; Mrs. Irmagene N. Holloway, Ph.D., educational consultant, Greater Cincinnati Safety Council; John T. Smiley, M.D., chief, local health administration, Minnesota Department of Health, and Max E. Tyler, managing director, safety department, U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Fuel Oil Conference

The fuel oil safety committee of the Arkansas Conference on Home and Farm Fuel Oil Explosions decided last March to suggest a program of action to the Conference. The program is as follows.

To ask the state health officer to request the U. S. Public Health Service to station an epidemiologist at Memphis to make a thorough investigation of enough fuel oil explosions to determine the factors involved.

To carry on a community education project in areas most seriously affected to teach people the danger of using kerosene to kindle fires, of using a motor fuel in place of kerosene, or of using kerosene even slightly contaminated with a motor fuel oil, and to teach the proper care and use of kerosene appliances.

To make available for free distribution a list of rules for the proper handling and use of kerosene and kerosene appliances.

The action of the committee followed a conference held at Little Rock attended by representatives of organizations, agencies, and industries concerned with the problem.

HOME SAFETY REVIEW is published monthly (except July and August) by the National Safety Council, 425 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill. Printed in U.S.A. Price 13c per copy, subscription $1.15 per year. Material herein may be reprinted.

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